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HOUSE RESOLUTION 233  
By Langster

A RESOLUTION to recognize the members of Les Douze Amies Social and Civic Club for their contributions to the Nashville community and the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those social and civic clubs that are dedicated to improving the quality of life for the citizens of this great State; and

WHEREAS, Les Douze Amies Social and Civic Club is one such admirable organization that has tirelessly devoted its time and talents to community service; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 1962, cousins Iona Crawford Smith and Rosa Lee Holmes Houston set out to organize a social club for young married women; and

WHEREAS, Elnora Otey, Lillian Southall, Iona Smith, Lillian Peoples, Helen Adams, and Rosa Houston attended the inaugural meeting and elected Rose Holmes Houston as their President, Lillian Southall as their Secretary, and Iona Smith as their Vice President; and

WHEREAS, the members decided upon "Les Douze Amies (The Twelve Friends)" as the Club's name, chose the phrase "to cultivate the seeds of friendship, showering them with

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happiness, and molding their blossoms into a bouquet of hearts" as their motto, and selected pink and blue as the Club's colors; and

WHEREAS, Elnora Otey, an esteemed scholar and avant-garde thinker, composed the Club's song to the tune of "Marcheta"; and

WHEREAS, after listing rules and regulations to govern the Club's activities, the members began organizing events that would both bring about a closer relationship between the members and their families and raise revenue; and

WHEREAS, to finance the Club's activities, the members hosted such events as skating parties, raffles, talent and fashion shows, baby contests, children's parties and carnivals, and an annual tea, christened the "Pink and Blue Tea"; and

WHEREAS, in addition to fostering closer family ties for its members, Les Douze Amies Social Club also contributed its time to community service, donating Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to needy families; campership to worthy students; contributions to the Nashville Christian Leadership Council, the Little League Bowlers, Clover Bottom, the March of Dimes, the Eighteenth Avenue Youth Center, and the United Givers Fund; gifts to girls at the Vocational School, Phillis Wheatley Home for the Aged, Crestview Nursing Home, and the Meharry Endowment Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Club also contributed to the Alumni Association of A & I State College, now Tennessee State University; the Benefit Bridge Party for Student Loans; Bill Wilkerson/Speech and Hearing Christmas Party; the Bethlehem Center; and the Kemba Smith Drug Abuse Defense Fund; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, Les Douze Amies became affiliated with the Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc.; to this day, the Club remains affiliated with the Federation and contributes annually to its scholarship fund; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, the members became life members of NAACP and were presented a certificate of merit by one of its representatives, Mr. Robert Alexander; and

WHEREAS, in commemoration of Tennessee's bicentennial celebration, the Club purchased a brick inscribed for the Les Douze Amies Club, which is now found in the Bi-Centennial Mall Path of Volunteers; and

WHEREAS, other yearly activities include the Annual Club Picnic, Halloween Party, the Annual Christmas Charity Activity, and the Spiritual Enrichment Activity; and

WHEREAS, a prayer room has been added at Gordon Memorial Church in honor of one of the Club's deceased members, Mary Nell Bard, and the first Spiritual Enrichment Activity was held in the prayer room; and

WHEREAS, the members of Les Douze Amies are wholly committed to the noble precepts that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor and commend the members of Les Douze Amies for their dedicated service to the Nashville community and the State of Tennessee and salute their unwavering commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.